



3-6-03  
2182 ex

PATENT  
450100-03261

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Shigeyoshi HIRASHIMA et al.

Serial No. : 09/894,689

Filed : June 27, 2001

For : CONNECTION APPARATUS, CONNECTING METHOD, AND  
STORAGE MEDIUM FOR STORING COMPUTER-READABLE  
PROGRAM HAVING CONNECTING FUNCTIONS

Art Unit : 2182

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Signature

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
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Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure set forth in  
37 C.F.R. 1.56, applicants are filing this Information Disclosure  
Statement and the accompanying form PTO-1449 along with copies of  
the prior art therein identified. Such prior art has come to the  
attention of applicants by being cited in a Search Report issued

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450100-03261

in the corresponding European application on January 2, 2003. So far as applicants are aware, this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement is not an admission that the documents identified herein constitute prior art to the present application.

Please charge any fees incurred by the filing of this document or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP  
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Based on Form PTO-1449 (3/90)	ATTY. DOCKET NO. 450100-03261	SERIAL NO. 09/894,689
APPLICANT Shigeyoshi HIRASHIMA et al.		
	FILING DATE June 27, 2001	GROUP 2182

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	AA	6 041 183	03/21/00	Hayafune et al.			
	AB	5 897 607	04/27/99	Jenney et al.			
	AC						
	AD						
	AE						
	AF						
	AG						
	AH						
	AI						
	AJ						
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO
	AL	EP 0 873 873	10/28/98	Europe			
	AM						
	AN						
	AO						
	AP						

OTHER PRIOR ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

AQ		

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

\* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.